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FOUR-H CLUB WORK PROMOTES LEADERSHIP

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A radio talk by George E. Farrell, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., delivered Saturday, December 3, 1932, in the National 4-H Club radio program, broadcast by a network of 57 associate NBC radio stations.

A few weeks ago, a happy faced Mid-West farmer said to me, "I am the leader of a 4-H dairy club in my community, but I don't have much responsibility for it now. There are three boys who have been with me in the club for five years. They have good dairy cows that they raised. They know dairying as well as I do. They have the respect of the other club members and their parents. They have exhibited at fairs, have attended camps and short courses; one of them has been to the Club Congress at the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago. They have shown good judgment under all conditions. They run the club and help the young members. They want me to continue as leader of the club, but any one of these three boys could successfully lead a club." This man's story could be matched by each of the 60,000 farm men serving as 4-H club leaders in their communities. Some day the same boys they tell about will be leading clubs themselves. They will serve as officers of the local farmers' club or grange. They will sit in on the affairs of the local cooperatives and aspire to be president of a local or county organization.

More than one-fifth of the 900,000 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H clubs are fifteen years of age or over. Every one of them hopes to possess the quality and to gain the experience that will make some younger group want him for a local leader. Nearly every one of the older boys and girls knows the path to successful leadership. Here it is.

A boy or girl starts on the road to junior leadership by developing a successful home enterprise. The boy who has built up a 400 pound herd, starting with a single calf can talk with authority and inspiration to the youngster who has received his first calf and is still wondering what it is all about. The girl who makes her own clothes, who has ranked up near the top in exhibits and health work, does not need to question whether she can lead girls in garment-making work -- they follow her.

Successful junior leaders develop the ability to conduct a meeting, write a constitution and by-laws and have a willingness to abide by the rules of the game. Boys and girls can acquire these abilities only by serving in the club under a wise leadership over a period of years.

Successful leaders have shown good sportsmanship and fair dealing in a hundred events. It is hard to lose and do it with a smile. Thousands of boys and girls have seen trophies and prizes go to the other fellow after they have labored long and earnestly to win. They have learned to cheer for the winner and when the award comes to them to accept it humbly. There are numerous cases where older boys and girls could win an exhibit, a demonstration or a judging contest with ease but have stepped aside to give the other fellow a chance. The honesty of the 4-H club member is recognized everywhere. Banks loan them money. Business concerns seek to buy their products.

Successful junior leaders have the ability to develop a constructive plan and present it for its worth. Outstanding club members have the ability

to get the facts and discuss without arguing. They are able to stand on their feet and present an orderly discussion of the topic under consideration.

They can lead the group in prayer, in song and in recreation. They keep club records as well as talk about them. They can demonstrate as part of a team. They can do a creditable job of judging and when the records are closed at the end of the year, their net return is above the average. These older 4-H club members are constantly studying, working, applying and practicing. The glib tongued and the poor finishers are given little recognition in the 4-H Club. The four square club program offers no easy path to leadership, but when followed courageously does turn out superior young men and women with leadership that will stand the acid test.

These farm boys and girls who have come up through the 4-H club school and who have faced the problem of the leader know how much they need further education. Nearly thirty per cent of the young men and women enrolled in agriculture and home economics at the land grant colleges are former 4-H club members. They have their college 4-H clubs with a service program in every college. They are determined that rural life shall have an intelligent as well as an enthusiastic leadership. The farm organizations are beginning to reap the harvest of the 4-H Club program. These former club members are coming to maturity with ability to learn to follow and to lead.